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Kennedy's Call Signals

Defeat Shook JFK's Faith in Advisers

By IGOR CASSINI

AS A RESULT OF THE CUBAN DETACOLE and the virtual loss of Laos, our young President's confidence in some of his diplomatic, military and intelligence advisers has been severely shaken.

He has learned that the State Department has had and still has some incompetent and dangerously misled men. He has also learned that he could not rely too heavily on the advice of the Chiefs of Staff. And from his gigantic spy apparatus, the CIA, he gleaned not so much intelligence but rather an intricate conglomeration of misinformation mixed with policy-making advice.



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The result is that President Kennedy is turning back to those people whose advice he trusted and respected—his younger brother, Bob, his father, and men like General Maxwell Taylor and former Assistant Secretary of State Robert Murphy.

On the other hand, Under Secretary of State Chester Bowles and CIA's Deputy Chief Robert Bissell have discredited themselves in the President's eyes. Bissell has already expressed a desire to resign, and although Bowles may prove more stubborn, sooner or later he'll have to go back to another job.

Allen Dulles, the longtime head of CIA, has kept the respect of the President, and the Kennedys like him because of his readiness to assume the blame which was not, in truth, entirely his own. But although Dulles may not be let out to pasture, you can expect he'll be given other duties such as an ambassador's post, which he could fill most ably. The phrase "ambassador" is much more a diplomat by inclination than a master-spy.